

4March 2021

**Safe Return to The Enterprise Learning Alliance from 8 March 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are well.

Following the PM’s announcement there is an expectation that all pupils will return to school on **Monday 8 March**.

As part of the measures to help schools open safely Government guidance requires us to offer a Covid-19 Lateral Flow Test for students before they return to the classroom.

Asymptomatic Testing

When we return to school we will continue to carry out Lateral Flow Test (LFTs) to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 in our community. Testing is voluntary, however, it is important that as many students as possible take part in the Covid-testing programme to minimise the chances of an outbreak of Covid-19 in our school community in the future. Testing will take place three times in school: 8, 11 and 15 of March 2021.

Testing will take place only for pupils who have returned their consent form. I would urge you to give consent for your child to be tested – please use the link below to complete a form under **ELA Covid Pupil Consent Form** and give consent.

[**https://www.ela.kent.sch.uk/Tech**](https://www.ela.kent.sch.uk/Tech)

Once students have completed 3 tests onsite they will then receive home self-testing kits to be taken twice a week.

How the home testing works?

Comprehensive guidance on self-testing is in the ‘Instructions for Use’ leaflet which comes with the LFT kit, students will need to conduct the test twice a week: Sunday night/Monday morning before school and Wednesday night/Thursday morning before school. Results are ready in around 30 minutes as the LFTs supplied do not require laboratory processing.

Once the LFT has been conducted you will need to log the test result online and also, separately, inform the school of the results by using the link below:

[**https://www.ela.kent.sch.uk/about-us/Information/covid-home-testing**](https://www.ela.kent.sch.uk/about-us/Information/covid-home-testing)

You will be directed to complete a short form which will ask for your child’s email address. The school will notify you separately of the username and password.

**In addition to the form please continue to notify the centre if your child receives a positive result.**

**We will continue to provide a small testing facility at school for any pupils who are unable to test at home.**

Managing sickness and reporting

Please remember that you must not send your child to school if they are unwell or displaying any of the following symptoms of Covid-19:

* New continuous cough
* High temperature
* Loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Any member of our school community that is displaying symptoms must self-isolate and be tested. In the event of a positive test result, we will inform Public Health England (PHE) and require all students identified as being within prolonged close contact to the infected person to isolate for 10 days.

Arrangements for the school day

**The government are clear that unless there is a specific medical reason and your child is shielding then they should return on the 8 of March. We understand that you may have anxieties about the return to school and we urge you to talk to us about your concerns.**

Further details of measures updated in light of recent government guidance can be found on our risk assessment.

[**https://www.ela.kent.sch.uk/Tech**](https://www.ela.kent.sch.uk/Tech)

**For the week commencing the 8 of March, the school will finish at the earlier time of 14.00 p.m. for one week only. From the 15 of March, school will finish at the normal time of 15.00 p.m.**

We will be offering meals as usual, alternatively please provide your child with a healthy packed lunch. There will be no further FSM vouchers sent from the 8th of March.

There is an expectation that students will wear face coverings on the mini bus and communal areas to minimise the risk unless they have medical exemption, this also applies to staff. We strongly advise pupils to wear face covering at all times including in the classroom.

We expect our students to return in full school uniform. Wearing the correct uniform is important to our identity, and school community and we recognise the importance of establishing our school as a family of learners together and uniform is integral to this.

All normal school rules will apply as well as additional expectations around behaviour in corridors and the maintenance of social distancing. If students choose to ignore these expectations then the school will apply the normal range of sanctions.

Vaccinated?

Should you or your children be offered a vaccine, we will do everything to support you in accepting, please do let us know if it clashes with any timetable commitments, and we will do our best to accommodate.

Please be aware that should you or your family have the vaccine, or already be vaccinated, you and your family still need to adhere to the ‘Stay Safe’ rules regarding social distancing, face coverings, hand hygiene etc. While you may be better protected from Covid-19 many in our school community are not and even vaccinated people could still carry the virus.

I understand this new information may raise questions, so please do contact the school with any questions you might have.

As always, I thank you for your ongoing support in welcoming our students back from March 8, and in the meantime, please continue to take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Micheala Clay

Executive Headteacher